



PRESS RELEASE

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EXTRADITED FROM THAILAND TO WISCONSIN, BULGARIAN SENTENCED FOR STEROID CONSPIRACY

Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Spartak Todorov, age 32, of Bangkok, Thailand, was sentenced today before Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to fifteen months in prison and a \$5,000 fine for conspiring to distribute steroids to customers in the United States.

At his March 8, 2005 plea hearing, Todorov admitted that he and a fellow conspirator, Kenneth Chen of China, used the internet to arrange bulk steroid shipments from Shanghai, China, through Thailand, and ultimately to customers in the United States. During the investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration agents coordinated a series of steroid purchases from Todorov over the internet and obtained detailed records of the conspiracy from Todorov's Internet Service Provider. Todorov was extradited from Thailand on January 28, 2005 to face charges in federal court.

Judge Crabb rejected Todorov's argument that the harsh conditions he faced in Thai prison awaiting extradition called for a lesser sentence, because: (a) of the high number of steroids Todorov shipped to the United States; (b) he was well aware that these drugs were controlled in the United States and (c) his long stay in the Thai prison

resulted from Todorov's decision to fight extradition.

The charges against Todorov were the result of a lengthy investigation conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the La Crosse Police Department, and the Kingdom of Thailand. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy M. O'Shea.

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